

REMARKS

Information Disclosure

It has been discovered that this application is related to US Application Serial No. 10/535,642 published as US20060008754; and to US Application Ser. No. 0/535,641 published as US 2006/0071597.

Elimination of multiple dependency

Multiple dependency has been eliminated from the claims. Since the multiply dependent claims were not considered, refund of the multiple dependent claim fee is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the dependent claims, previously not examined, do recite patentable distinctions over the reference.

Claim amendments for formal matters

The word "preferably" has been eliminated from claims 8 and 9, because it appears to be an artifact from ex-USA practice, without meaning in US claims. This change is not in response to any rejection. It is not believed that this change has altered the scope of these claims.

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The word "whereby" has been changed to -- wherein -- in claim 10. This is a correction of an obvious error due to the ex-USA nature of the application and is therefore not believed to change the scope of the claim. This amendment is not in response to any rejection.

Claim 5 has been amended to remove the group type recitation. Claims 22 and 23 have been added to replace the elements deleted from claim 5.

Art rejections

The art rejections are respectfully traversed.

Any of the Examiner's rejections and/or points of argument that are not addressed below would appear to be moot in view of the following. Nevertheless, Applicants reserve the right to respond to those rejections and arguments and to advance additional arguments at a later date. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Applicants are having a very frustrating time reading GB 1,361,225. They have searched for material in the text corresponding to reference numeral 12 cited by the Examiner for the coating. They have not found any corresponding text. Applicants respectfully submit that this problem makes the reference non-enabling as it is impossible to determine what is what there.

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Claim 10

Normally a discharge vessel is filled first, then sealed – e.g. glazed. During sealing, the filling of the vessel, responsive to the temperature and pressure necessary for glazing, may damage the seal.

Claim 10 recites that the discharge vessel has a coating layer. The method includes filling the vessel which is already coated – as previously recited, with an ionizable filling. The feed through is then closed by gas-tight connecting the feedthrough to the end closure device. Since, in accordance with this claim, the filling is inserted after most of the sealing has already occurred, the glazing/coating is less likely to be damaged.

Applicants respectfully submit that the recitations of this claim are not taught or suggested by the reference – nor is the functional advantage resulting from these recitations.

Claims 3-5, 22, and 23

These claims recite particular physical and chemical characteristics of the discharge vessel that are not taught or suggested by the reference.

Claims 7 and 8

These claims recite a feed-through in the end-closure. This feed through has the functional advantage that the discharge vessel may be filled after the end closure is sealed

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to the vessel. This prevents filling material in the discharge vessel from interfering with sealing of the end closure to the vessel.

Applicants respectfully submit that this feed through and the ensuing functional advantage are not taught or suggested by the reference.

Other New Claims

New claims 11-19 are directed to a motor vehicle headlight. The reference relates to sodium vapor lights – a totally different technology. The particular techniques and materials there would not be suitable for use in a headlight. Accordingly, the reference fails to teach or suggest the new claims.

New claim 20 relates to the coating being between the sealant and the end of the discharge vessel, which is not taught or suggested in the reference.

New claim 21 is similar to claim 10, but in more traditional US claim format. Applicants respectfully submit that this claim distinguishes patentably over the reference.

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Applicants respectfully submit that they have addressed each issue raised by the Examiner — except for any that were skipped as moot — and that the application is accordingly in condition for allowance. Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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